P81.0411.(13)

"..Unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality.."

- Martin Luther King

AURICLE

No. 13 - Monday, February 2nd, 1976 - A U of T Medical Society Publication

The Medical Alumni Association is sponsoring an informal meeting on "Health and the Law".

Tuesday, February 10, 8 pm

Alumni Common Room

Mr. Theodor Kerzner, a practising lawyer with the Macauley Perry firm will speak on what the Medical Review Committee means to the practising physician, and how you can run into difficulty with this committee.

Discussion & Coffee to follow the meeting...

"But I just can't go home today, Dr. Brooks. I've got visitors booked for the next two days."

UP FRONT eclectics

- by Ron Cyr

Fowl Play Faithful readers will by now have come to expect the worst: having taken up malpractice insurance and forsaking hedonism in the interests of longevity, they have retired to the countryside, whiling away the time talking to their budgies, anxiously waiting to hear the bad news.

As usual, they won't be disappointed...

Now you can get rid of the birds too ! The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (1) quotes reports that "an apparently higher rate of chronic valvular heart disease, not of rheumatic fever origin, has been attributed to the keeping of pet birds and assumed, though not proven, to stem from psittacosis.." As if this weren't bad enough, "bird fanciers..appear to suffer more frequently than others from chronic myalgia.."

Ear-Piercing Some New York researchers decided to investigate this common cosmetic procedure, and asked women attending a V.D. clinic to fill out a questionnaire about ear-piercing. 83% of 497 respondents had pierced ears, the procedure having been performed most commonly by friends or relatives (66%), medical office personnel (23%), and department store personnel (11%).

138 women (34%) reported complications, mainly redness and swelling, drainage and purulent infection, but bleeding, cyst formation, scars and trauma were also reported.

Complications did not vary much with the instruments used. (2)

(1) New England Journal of Medicine 293 (1975) pp. 1372-73 .

(2) The Practitioner 215 (1975) p. 700 .

Eclectics (cont'd)

Doctors and Diplomacy

Commenting on some doctor-diplomats of old, The Practitioner (3) reports:

"The ability to listen, tolerate, understand, and persuade is common to the arts of diplomacy and medicine. Their clinical training might also enable medically-qualified diplomats to know when their opposite numbers are psychologically and physically most vulnerable.

In the confrontations between foreign ministers in 1946, Molotov would provoke Ernest Bevin into losing his temper, but Bevin elicited an interesting physical sign, for he noted that Molotov had ' a bump on his forehead which swells when he is under emotional strain.'

The possibilities are boundless, and diplomats should look under, as well as over the table. When Robert McNamara, the American Secretary of Defense, could no longer control the shaking of his hands he would lower them to hitch up his trousers, and, according to David Halberstam, ' on bad days, the pants might reach to the knees'."

Yes Virginia !

Addressing Trustees and Medical Staff at the 1975 Ontario Hospital Assoc. Convention, Dr. M. Wilfred Butts, chairman of the O.M.A./O.H.A. Sub-Committee on Utilisation stated that in future the hospital board must obtain some accountability from the medical staff for the use they actually make of the services.

Referring to the need for co-ordination of local hospital care, he said: "Community pride has in large measure developed the hospital system to date, but it is obvious that we cannot continue in the current direction at the current pace. Planning for efficient provision of services will have to take account of the services available in your region - marginally efficient services will have to be combined, and each hospital will have to define "the business it is in". You can have a milk-store on every corner open 24 hours a day, but not a full-blown 25 bed hospital complete with nuclear medicine and neurosurgery. " (4)

(3) The Practitioner 215 (1975) p. 696

(4) Hospital Highlights Winter 1975 p. 15

"Do you have a card for somebody whose analyst is on vacation?"

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There will be an Auricle Staff meeting in Room 2141 on Thurs. Feb 5th at 1 p.m.

Hospital Reps are asked to attend please, and anyone interested in the paper is warmly invited. Free coffee.

M.A.A. UPDATE:

A Co-Ed Interfaculty Ski meet will be held on Thursday, March 4th at Mansfield Skiways. Please sign the list outside the Medical Society Office if interested. For more information, see Igor Prokopiw in Meds II ..